

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA:WHLUERS/LCKILDAY:MM

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

S/S:O D. MACK

S:J. COVEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030975 TOSEC 030020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RQ, GT, PFOR

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - AN OVERTURE AND A CODA TO  
THE TRIP: PUERTO RICO AND GUATEMALA

(S/S:7602669 )

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROGERS

1. THE PROBLEM.

THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO SUGGESTS YOU MAKE A SHORT  
AIRPORT STOP IN PUERTO RICO ON YOUR WAY TO VENEZUELA  
FEBRUARY 16.

THE EARTHQUAKES IN GUATEMALA HAVE CAUSED A SERIOUS  
DISASTER. I PROPOSE YOU MAKE A BRIEF STOP THERE ON YOUR  
WAY HOME FROM SAN JOSE TO UNDERSCORE OUR CONCERN.

2. BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS.

PUERTO RICO. THE VISIT WOULD SYMBOLIZE THE IMPORTANCE  
WE ATTACH TO PUERTO RICO. YOU COULD POINT UP THE AUTHEN-  
TICITY OF PUERTO RICO'S DEMOCRACY, ITS SELF-DETERMINATION  
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AND ITS SELF-GOVERNMENT. TALK WITH A FEW OFFICIALS, IN

A HALF HOUR TO AN HOUR, ISSUE A STATEMENT, AND ANSWER A FEW PRESS QUESTIONS.

THE GOVERNOR IS A DEMOCRAT. THE MAYOR OF SAN JUAN IS A REPUBLICAN. IF YOU MET BOTH, WE WOULD AVOID ANY CHARGE OF FAVORITISM. SUCH A VISIT WOULD PROBABLY BE WELL RECEIVED DOMESTICALLY.

PUERTO RICO ADDS 25 MINUTES OF FLYING TIME. TO MAKE THE STOP MEANS THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE ANDREWS AT ABOUT 10:30 A.M. INSTEAD OF NOON.

GUATEMALA. THERE ARE TWO ALTERNATIVES:

THE FIRST: THE EARTHQUAKE MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TO JOIN WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN SAN JOSE ON FEBRUARY 23-24. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, ADDING A BRIEF STOP IN GUATEMALA CITY WOULD SERVE TWO PURPOSES: IT WOULD ENABLE YOU TO HAVE A USEFUL PERSONAL MEETING WITH LAUGERUD AND IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. WERE YOU TO EXTEND YOUR ITINERARY FOR THIS PURPOSE, YOU COULD DEPART SAN JOSE AT 3:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 24, ARRIVING AT GUATEMALA AT APPROXIMATELY 4:15 P.M. YOU MIGHT THEN TOUR THE MOST AFFECTED AREAS OF THE CITY BY EITHER HELICOPTER OR AUTOMOBILE, ENDING AT THE NATIONAL PALACE FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. THIS WOULD SET BACK YOUR ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON FROM 10:00 TO 11:00 OR 11:30.

THE OTHER OPTION WOULD UNFOLD IF LAUGERUD ATTENDS THE SAN JOSE GET-TOGETHER. IN THIS EVENT YOUR BILATERAL MEETING WITH HIM COULD TAKE PLACE, NOT IN SAN JOSE, BUT ABOARD YOUR AIRCRAFT ON THE WAY TO GUATEMALA CITY. IN THIS CASE YOU WOULD BE BACK IN WASHINGTON AT AROUND 11:00 P.M.

I WOULD SUGGEST WE NOT PUBLICIZE THE DECISION OR MAKE THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL LATER. THE SITUATION IN GUATEMALA IS TOO FLUID.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS.

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A. THAT YOU AGREE TO A SHORT STOP IN PUERTO RICO, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16.

APPROVE            DISAPPROVE

B. THAT YOU KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A STOP IN GUATEMALA FOR A MEETING.

APPROVE            DISAPPROVE

C. OR, THAT YOU AGREE TO RETURN FROM SAN JOSE TO  
GUATEMALA WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD ABOARD YOUR AIRCRAFT  
AFTER THE SAN JOSE MEETING.

APPROVE            DISAPPROVE

D. ALTERNATIVELY, THAT NO STOPOVER IN GUATEMALA BE  
SCHEDULED.

APPROVE            DISAPPROVE

DRAFTED: ARA:WHLUERS/LCKILDAY  
CLEARANCES: S: J. COVEY

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